

Community Restorative Justice (CRJ) Mission:

CRJ is a restorative justice solution that strengthens the lives of juvenile offenders, their victims, and their communities by promoting direct accountability and responsibility.

CRJ's Programming

- Victim Offender Dialog (VOD)
 - Began July 2004
- Alternative Path – Accountability Conference
 - Began as a result of victims and juvenile offenders not meeting for face-to-face encounters
- Shoplifting Prevention Program
 - Began February 2008 as a result of the number of juvenile shoplifting referrals and the need to help youth understand the ripple affects of stealing from retailers

Purpose

- Make sure we provide needed services to victims
- Give victims opportunities for involvement and input
- Actively involve the community in making decisions and carrying out plans for resolving issues and repairing relationships
- Build connections in the community
- Give juvenile offenders the opportunity and encouragement to take responsibility for their behavior
- Actively involve juvenile offenders in repairing the harm they caused to their victims, families, communities, and futures
- Support the healthy growth of young people

VOD History

- Native American Tribes
- Used in Canada in the 70's
- 1300 communities in 17 countries
- Several names for the programs

Typical Steps in the VOD Encounter

- Introductions
- Participants' Stories
- Repairing the harm: Accountability Agreement
- Closing

Benefits for Youth Offenders

- Opportunity to truly learn and understand the human consequences of crime on individuals and communities.
- Accountability that addresses direct harms, and encourages empathy and responsibility.
- Opportunity to be seen as a person, rather than a juvenile delinquent or a criminal.
- The possibility of forgiveness.
- Encouragement to personal transformation and integration.
- The opportunity to increase competency.
- The opportunity to meet positive and caring adults.

Benefits For Victims

- Opportunities to tell their truths – storytelling.
- Involvement and empowerment.
- Validation and vindication.
- Answers to questions.
- Transformation.
- An opportunity for healing.

Benefits For and From Communities

- Their needs as victims met.
- Active participation in public safety and community health.
- Opportunities to build connections and relationships
- Encouragement to accept responsibility for members of the community.
- An increase in community safety.